

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (ABOUREZK, JAMES G.)

SUBJECT: CODEL ABOUREZK

1. SUMMARY. FIRST CODEL TO VISIT YEMEN SINCE 1965
ATTRACTS BROAD ATTENTION AND SYMPATHY DESPITE HEAVY
YARG PREOCCUPATION WITH VISIT OF SAUDI PRINCE SULTAN.
END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR JAMES G. ABOUREZK (D., SOUTH DAKOTA)
VISITED YAR FROM APRIL 11 TO 14. VISIT COINCIDED
WITH MASSIVE EFFORTS TO RECEIVE FIRST EVER OFFICIAL
VISIT OF RANKING SAUDI PRINCE (MIN DEF SULTAN).
LATTER THREATENED TO SWAMP LIMITED FACILITIES OF YARG
FONMIN TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS BUT, IN INIMITABLE
YEMENI FASHION, CHAIRS GOT TO LECTURE HALLS,
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE, CARS
SOMEHOW SHOWED UP MORE OR LESS ON TIME, AND NET
RESULT--FOR BOTH CODEL AND YARG OFFICIALS--WAS ONE
OF CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION.

2. SENATOR SPOKE FIRST NIGHT TO LARGE SEGMENT OF
AMERICAN COMMUNITY ABOUT 1976 ELECTIONS. QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS RANGED FROM HIGHLY ARGUMENTATIVE TO
HIGHLY HUMOROUS IN RARE AND MUCH APPRECIATED TASTE
OF POLITICS FOR ISOLATED COMMUNITY HERE.

3. SENATOR DROVE TO TAIZ ON SECOND DAY (APRIL 12),
ADDRESSED DINNER CONVENED THERE IN HIS HONOR BY
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GOVERNOR, AND TOOK OFF NEXT DAY TO RETURN TO SANA IN

YARG AIRPLANE. WHEN AIRPLANE DECIDED TO RETURN TO TAIZ TO LAOD ILL MAN BEING EVACUATED TO SANA SENATOR'S PARTY HELPED LOAD STRETCHER, PERSUADE INNUMERABLE RELATIVES IN ATTENDANCE THAT AIRCRAFT COULD NOT TAKE OFF WITH ALL OF THEM ABOARD.

4. JUST PRIOR TO APRIL 12 TRIP TO TAIZ, YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI RECEIVED SENATOR AND PARTY, STRESSING CONTINUING NEED OF YARG FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. HAMDI DID NOT DISCUSS MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS GENERALLY BUT FOCUSSED ON HIS HOPE FOR CLOSER AND MUCH NUMEROUS TIES BETWEEN YEMEN AND U.S., PARTICULARLY IN THE AID SIDE.

5. ON APRIL 13 IN SANA SENATOR CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER, AND AS IN DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT, SUBJECT OF U.S. SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING WAS RAISED. SENATOR INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS HELP EXPAND MODEST, MUCH NEEDED, HIGH IMPACT PROGRAMS WHICH U.S. GOVERNQAKC MENT PRESENTLY OPERATING IN YEMEN. PRIME MINISTER SAID DESIRE OF ARABS--PARTICULARLY IN YARG--WAS NOT RPT NOT TO SEE USG FORCED TO MAKE DECISION BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND ARABS. HE SAID YEMENIS "LIKE OTHERS IN AREA" ACCEPTED REALITIES IN MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ONLY TO SEE ALL RPT ALL STATES LIVE IN SECURITY AND PEACE.

6. SENATOR WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR AND ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE YAHYA MUTAWAKKIL AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY CHLIRMAN MAKKI, MINDEVEL AL-IRYANI, DEPPRIMIN JAGHMAN (ALL THREE KNOWN FROM WASHINGTON) PLUS OTHERS.

7. SENATOR ADDRESSED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GROUP ASSEMBLED BY BOTH PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND TPSVATBVK# INVITATION IN EVENING OF APRIL 3, AT YEMENI

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OFFICER'S CLUB. ADDRESS AND ANSWERS GIVEN AFTERWARD TO AUDIENCE TENDED TO CONFIRM LOCAL IMPRESSION OF EXTRAORDINARY ROLE PLAYED IN CONGRESS BY LOBBIES, BUT SENATOR INCISIVELY AND WITH TELLING SINCERITY PUT SUCH ACTIVITIES IN CONTEXT OF OPENESS, DEMOCRATIC CHECKS AND BALANCE ON POWER OF STATE, GREAT STRENGTH OF AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. THIS WAS USIS SPONSORED TALK, AND MADE GREAT IMPACT ON

CORAY#OF 220 PERSONS FROM MINISTRIES AND UNIVERSITY.

8. SENATOR GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON 14 APRIL.

COMMENT: FACT THAT A U.S. SENATO

HAS ARAB

NAME AND MANY--BUT NOT ALL--ARAB SYMPATHIES IS, OF
COURSE, SOURCE OF GREAT PLEASURE TO LOCAL AUDIENCES.
SENATOR'S SELF-DEPRECATING HUMOR, AND "TELL IT LIKE
IT IS" MANNER FASCINATED YEMENIS. BEYOND THIS
PECULIARITY, HOWEVER, VISIT OF SENATOR--FIRST
CODEL IN DECADE--ADDED ANOTHER DIMENSION TO
GROWING USG ROLE HERE AND BROADENED LOCAL UNDERSTANDING
OF USEFUL USG ROLE IN AREA. SENATOR CLEARLY IMPLIED
SHIFT OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD ARABS BUT NEVER ATTACKED
ANY OF TACTICS, PERSONALITIES OR GOALS OF
ADMINISTRATION. WHAT CRITICISM HE HAD RELATED TO
CONGRESS AND DIVISIONS OR SHORTCOMINGS AMONG ARABS.
AS PSYCHO-POLITICAL EVENT, THEREFORE, VISIT WAS
USG PLUS.
SCOTES

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